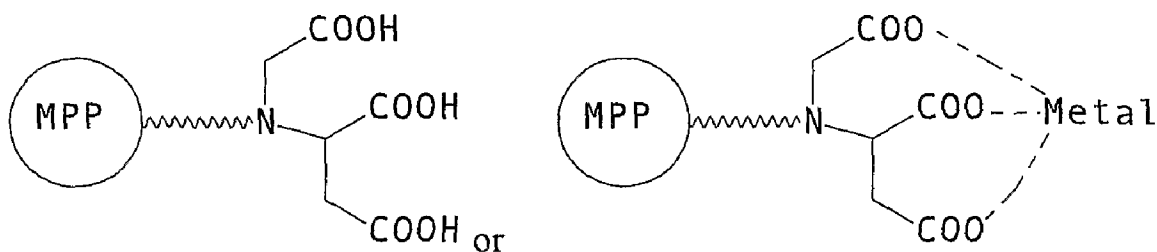


LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c), please amend the claims as follows; this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A conjugate comprising a magnetic polymer particle bound to a carboxymethylated aspartate chelating ligand.
2. (Currently Amended) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 comprising a magnetic polymer particle bound to a carboxymethylated aspartate ligand chelating a metal atom or ion.
3. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 wherein said metal is a transition metal or a metal of group 13.
4. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 3 wherein said metal is Ni, Fe, Ga, Mn, Co, Cu and Zn.
5. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 4 wherein said metal is Fe, Ga, Mn and Co.
6. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 wherein said metal is in the 2+ or 3+ oxidation state.
7. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 6 wherein said metal is Co^{2+} , Fe^{3+} , Ga^{3+} and Cu^{2+} .
8. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 7 wherein said metal is Co^{2+} .
9. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein there are at least three atoms between the nitrogen atom of the carboxymethylated aspartate ligand and the particle surface.
10. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 9 being of formula



(MPP=magnetic polymer particle)

wherein the wavy line represents a 3 to 20 atom linker selected from NH-alkylene, NH-CO-alkylene, O-alkylene, OCO-alkylene, S-alkylene or SCO-alkylene.

11. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 10 wherein the wavy line represents NH-C₅H₁₂-or NH-C₆H₁₃-.

12. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein said polymer comprises a cross-linked styrene divinyl benzene polymer.

13. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 wherein the magnetic polymer particle has a diameter of 0.5 to 8 μm .

14. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 12 wherein said magnetic polymer particle has a diameter of 0.8 to 1.2 μm .

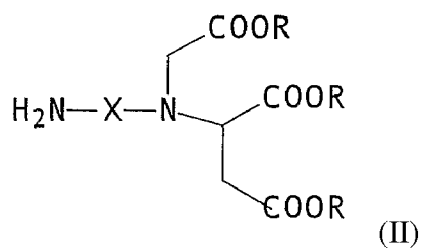
15. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 1 being uncharged.

16. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 additionally chelated to a histidine tagged recombinant protein/peptide, His, Cys, Met, Gln, Asn, Lys and/or Tyr residue containing native protein/peptide or phosphorylated protein/peptide.

17. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 2 additionally chelated to a histidine tagged recombinant protein/peptide.

18. (Original) A conjugate as claimed in claim 16 characterised in that where said conjugate binds a phosphorylated protein/peptide, said metal is Fe or Ga.

19. (Original) A process for the preparation of a conjugate comprising a magnetic polymer particle bound to a Cm-Asp ligand comprising reacting a Cm-Asp ligand of formula (II)



(wherein each R independently represents hydrogen or a protecting group and X represents a 2 to 20 atom group) with a magnetic polymer particle, and optionally coordinating the resulting conjugate to a metal atom or ion.

20. – 26. (Cancelled)